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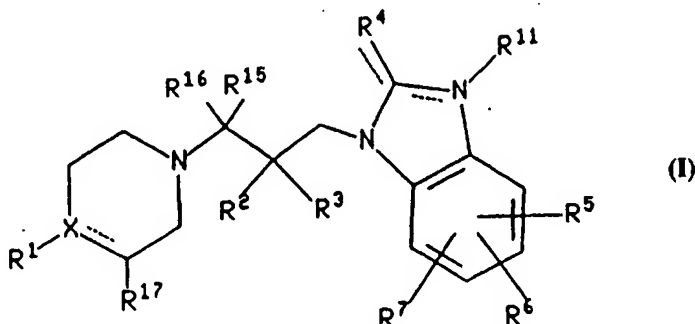
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(54) Title: BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES HAVING DOPAMINERGIC ACTIVITY

(57) Abstract

This invention relates to novel, pharmaceuti-
cally active benzimidazole derivatives of formula
(I), wherein the dotted line, X and R¹ through
R⁷, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ through R¹⁷ are defined as in
the specification. These compounds exhibit central
dopaminergic activity and are useful in the treat-
ment of CNS disorders.



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BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES HAVING DOPAMINERGIC ACTIVITY

5

The present invention relates to novel pharmacologically active benzimidazole derivatives and their acid addition salts. The compounds of this invention exhibit central dopaminergic activity and are useful in the treatment of central nervous system (CNS) disorders. They act preferentially on the D4 dopamine receptor.

10

It is generally accepted knowledge that dopamine receptors are important for many functions in the animal body. For example, altered functions of these receptors participate in the genesis of psychosis, addiction, sleep, feeding, learning, memory, sexual behavior, regulation of immunological responses and blood pressure. Since dopamine receptors control a great number of pharmacological events and, on the other hand, not all of these events are presently known, there is a possibility that compounds that act preferentially on the D4 dopamine receptor may exert a wide range of therapeutic effects in humans.

15

European Patent Application EP 0526434, which was published on February 3, 1993, referred to a class of substituted benzimidazol-2-ones that contain 1-(aryl and heteroaryl) 4-propyl-piperidine substituents and states that such compounds were found to be centrally acting serotonergic agents. European Patent Application EP 0548813, which was published on June 30, 1993, refers to a class of substituted indole derivatives that contain 1-[3-(4-aryl and heteroaryl) piperazine-1-yl]propyl substituents and states that such compounds were found to be centrally acting serotonergic agents.

German Patent Application DE 2017265, which was published on October 15, 1970, refers to a class of substituted 1-[3-(4-phenyl)piperazin-1-yl]propyl-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazoles and states that such compounds were tested in mice and found to have bronchodilating effects. United States Patent 4,200,641, which was issued on April 29, 1980, and German Patent DE 2714437, which was published on May 11, 1989, refer to a series of 1-[3-(4-benzhydryl)piperazin-1-yl]propyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-2-ones. These compounds were tested in mice and found to have antihistaminic activity. United States Patent 4,954,503, which issued on December 31, 1991, refers to a series of indazole derivatives that contain 1-(aryl and heteroaryl) 4-propyl-piperidine substituents and states that such compounds were found to exhibit antipsychotic and analgesic activity in mice.

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The benzimidazole and benzimidazolone moiety has been used as a generic substituent in the preparation of a variety of structurally different classes of compounds

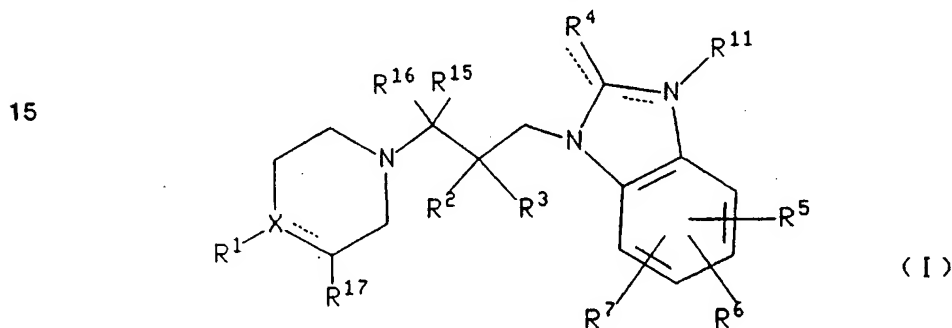
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that exhibit activity on the CNS systems. Examples can be found in Belgium Patent Application BE 904,945, which was published on December 18, 1986, United States Patent 4,954,503, which issued on December 31, 1991, and European Patent Application EP 200,322, which was published on February 28, 1990.

5 The present inventors have synthesized several substituted 1-[4-(aryl or heteroaryl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-propyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol; 1-{3-[4-(aryl or heteroaryl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-hydroxy-propyl}-1,3-dihydro-benzoimidazol-2-one and 1-{3-[4-(aryl or heteroaryl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzoimidazole derivatives that posses central dopaminergic activity. These compounds have a preference for D4-
10 dopamine receptor.

Summary of the Invention

This invention relates to compounds of the formula



wherein each of the dotted lines represents an optional double bond;

X is carbon or nitrogen;

R¹ is benzyl, aryl selected from phenyl, indanyl and naphthyl, or heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl, wherein each of the foregoing aryl, heteroaryl and (C₁-C₄)alkyl
25 groups, and the phenyl moiety of the benzyl group, may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, preferably with from zero to two substituents, independently selected from halo (e.g., chloro, fluoro, bromo or iodo), (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted
30 with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁸, aryl and heteroaryl, wherein said aryl is selected from phenyl, indanyl and naphthyl and said heteroaryl is selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl;

or, when X is nitrogen, R¹ may optionally form, together with X, R¹⁷ and the carbon atom to which R¹⁷ is attached, a tetrahydroquinoline ring;

R² and R³ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, cyano, -CONH₂ and -NHC(=O)R⁹, or R² and R³ together form an oxo group;

5 R⁴ is hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, amino, -NHR¹⁰, -SR¹⁰, OR¹⁰ or hydroxy;

R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo (e.g., chloro, fluoro, bromo or iodo), cyano, (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl, (C₁-C₆)acylamino, (phenyl)[(C₁-C₆)acyl]amino, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, aryl and heteroaryl, wherein said aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl and indanyl, and said heteroaryl is selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen and (C₁-C₆)alkyl; and
15 R¹¹ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of said benzyl may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, preferably with from zero to two substituents, independently selected from halo (e.g., fluoro, chloro, bromo, or iodo), (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, amino, cyano,
20 (C₁-C₆)alkylamino and di-(C₁-C₆)alkylamino;

each of R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ is selected, independently, from hydrogen, methyl, cyano, -(C=O)-NH₂ and -CH₂-O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R¹⁷ is hydrogen or, when X is nitrogen, R¹⁷ may optionally form, together with the carbon to which it is attached, R¹ and X, a tetrahydroquinoline ring;

25 with the proviso that: (a) R⁴ can not be either oxygen or hydroxy when all of R², R³, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are hydrogen; (b) when the five membered ring of formula I contains a double bond, R¹¹ is absent; (c) when R⁴ is sulfur or oxygen, R⁴ is double bonded to the carbon to which is attached and such carbon is single bonded to both adjacent ring nitrogen atoms; and (d) when X is nitrogen and is double bonded to an adjacent
30 carbon, R¹ is absent.

The compounds of formula I that are basic in nature are capable of forming a wide variety of salts with various inorganic and organic acids. The acids that may be used to prepare pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of those compounds

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of formula I that are basic in nature are those that form non-toxic acid addition salts, i.e., salts containing pharmacologically acceptable anions, such as the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, hydroiodide, nitrate, sulfate, bisulfate, phosphate, acid phosphate, isonicotinate, acetate, lactate, salicylate, citrate, acid citrate, tartrate, pantothenate, 5 bitartrate, ascorbate, succinate, maleate, gentisinate, fumarate, gluconate, glucaronate, saccharate, formate, benzoate, glutamate, methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate and pamoate [i.e., 1,1'-methylene-bis-(2-hydroxy-3-naphthoate)] salts.

This invention also relates to the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of compounds of the formula I.

The term "one or more substituents", as used herein, includes from one to the maximum number of substituents possible based on the number of available bonding sites.

The term "alkyl", as used herein, unless otherwise indicated, includes saturated monovalent hydrocarbon radicals having straight, branched or cyclic moieties or combinations thereof.

The term "alkoxy", as used herein, unless otherwise indicated, refers to radicals having the formula -O-alkyl, wherein "alkyl" is defined as above.

Preferred compounds of this invention include the following:

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]butyl}-1,3-dihydro-benzimidazol-2-one;

1-Benzimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-(5-Chloro-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-benzimidazol-2-one;

1-Benzimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-o-tolyl-piperazine-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-m-tolyl-piperazine-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-p-tolyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-chloro-phenyl]-phenyl-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-

ol;

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1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

5 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-naphthalen-1-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

10 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-ethoxy-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-{3-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propyl}-piperazin-1-yl]-
propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-{2-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethyl}-piperazin-1-yl]-
propan-2-ol;

15 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-
benzoimidazole; and

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-
1H-benzoimidazole.

Other compounds of this invention include the following:

20 (4-Chloro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-amine;

{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-
amine;

4-Chloro-N1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-benzene-1,2-diamine;

1-(4,5-Dichloro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-

25 2-ol;

1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-phenyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-propyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

5-Fluoro-1-(3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl)-2-methyl-1H-

30 benzoimidazole;

5-Chloro-1-(3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-hydroxy-propyl)-1,3-dihydro-
benzoimidazol-2-one;

- 5-Fluoro-1-(3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-hydroxy-propyl)-1,3-dihydro-benzoimidazol-2-one;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]propan-2-ol;
- 5 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;
- 1-{4-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-phenyl}-ethanone;
- 1-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-3-benzoimidazol-1-yl-propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3,4-dimethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 4-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-phenol;
- 10 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-phenethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-phenyl-allyl)-piperazin-1-yl]propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-chloro-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 2-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl-1-morpholin-4-yl]-ethanone;
- 15 1-(4-Benzhydryl-piperazin-1-yl)-3-benzoimidazol-1-yl-propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-[bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-methyl]-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-nitro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic;
- 20 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 3-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1-yl]-1-phenyl-propan-1-one;
- 4-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-butan-1-one;
- 25 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(tetrahydro-furan-2-ylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- [4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-(tetrahydro-furan-2-yl)-methanone;
- [4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanone;
- 30 [4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-(tetrahydro-furan-2-yl)-methanone;

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- [[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-yl)-methanone;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 5 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-2-nitro-butyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 3-[4-(3-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-2-hydroxy-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-1-(4-chloro-phenyl)-propan-1-one;
- 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(5,5-diphenyl-pent-3-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
- 1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-phenyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;
- 10 5,6-Difluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzoimidazol;
- 1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-propyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;
- 1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-(2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;
- 1-[3-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 1-[3-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-
- 15 benzoimidazole;
- 1-{3-[4-(3-Chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 1-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperidin-4-
- ol;
- 20 1-{3-[4-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 1-{3-[4-(3,5-Dichloro-pyridin-2-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 5-Fluoro-2-methyl-1-[3-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propyl]-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 25 2-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-arboline;
- 1-{3-[4-(6-Chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;
- 1-{3-[4-(6-Chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-
- 30 benzoimidazole;
- 1-{3-[4-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

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6,7-Difluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

3-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline;

5 1-{3-[4-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-6,7-difluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(5-fluoro-pyrimidin-2-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

10 5,6-Difluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

Acetic acid 2-(5-fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-1-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-ethyl ester;

15 1-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

20 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methoxy-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-3-methyl-butyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

25 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

30 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole; and

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole.

Other embodiments of this invention include:

- (a) compounds of the formula I wherein R¹ is phenyl and is either unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁸, aryl and heteroaryl;
- 5 (b) compounds of the formula I wherein R¹ is indanyl and is either unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁸, aryl and heteroaryl;
- 10 (c) compounds of the formula I wherein R¹ is naphthyl and is either unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁸, aryl and heteroaryl;
- (d) compounds of the formula I wherein R¹ is heteroaryl and is either unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁸, aryl and heteroaryl;
- 15 (e) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano and
- 20 halo;
- (f) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is hydrogen;
- (g) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
- (h) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is amino;
- (i) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is -NHR¹⁰;
- 25 (j) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is SR¹⁰;
- (k) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is -OR¹⁰;
- (l) compounds of the formula I wherein R⁴ is hydroxy;
- (m) compounds of the formula I wherein R¹¹ is absent;
- (n) compounds of the formula I wherein R² and R³ are both hydrogen;
- 30 (o) compounds of the formula I wherein one or both of R² and R³ are hydroxy;
- (p) compounds of the formula I wherein R² and R³ together form an oxo group;

-10-

- (q) compounds of the formula I wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is (C_1-C_6) alkyl;
- (r) compounds of the formula I wherein X is carbon;
- (s) compounds of the formula I wherein X is nitrogen;
- (t) compounds of the formula I wherein R^4 is oxygen; and
- 5 (v) compounds of the formula I wherein R^4 is sulfur.

The compounds of formula I above may contain chiral centers and therefore may exist in different enantiomeric forms. This invention relates to all optical isomers and all other stereoisomers of compounds of the formula I and mixtures thereof.

This invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or
10 preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of
15 the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De
20 La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of the formula I, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is effective in treating or preventing such
25 condition, and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

The present invention also relates to a method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders,
30 schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant

syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a compound of the formula I, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is effective in treating or preventing such condition.

10 The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The present invention also relates to a method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease,

depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De
5 La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising an administering to said mammal a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt
10 thereof.

This invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering (*i.e.*, increasing or decreasing) dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, including a human, comprising a dopaminergic
15 effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention also relates to a method of treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering (*i.e.*, increasing or decreasing) dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal,
20 including a human, comprising administering to said mammal a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis,
25 nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents,
30 neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia,

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ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The present invention also relates to a method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, including a human, comprising an administering to said mammal a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

This invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, including a human, comprising a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention also relates to a method of treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, including a human, comprising administering to said mammal a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

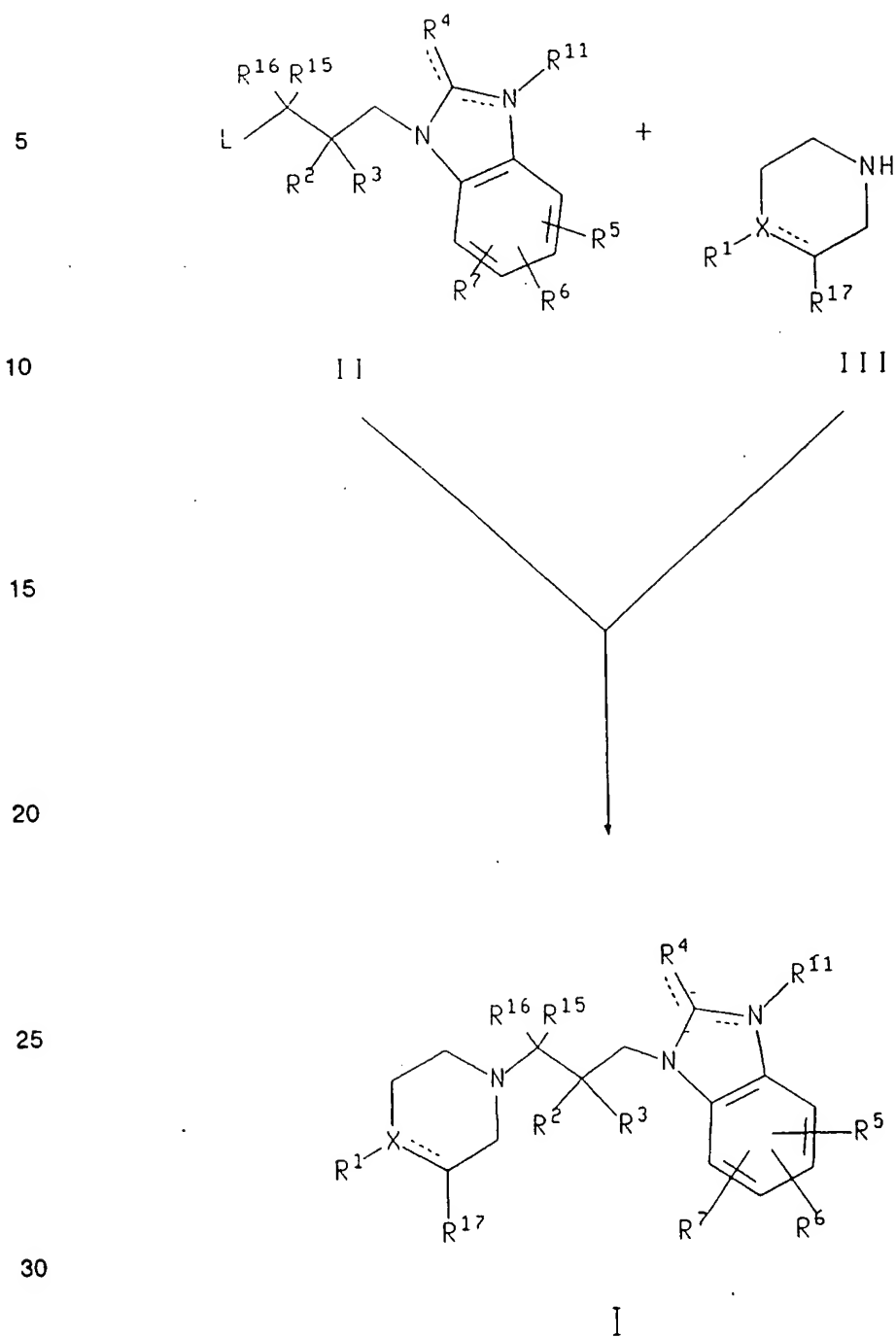
The term "dopaminergic effective amount", as used herein, refers to an amount of a compound sufficient to inhibit the binding of dopamine to a dopamine receptor with the effect of altering (i.e., increasing or decreasing) dopamine mediated neurotransmission.

5

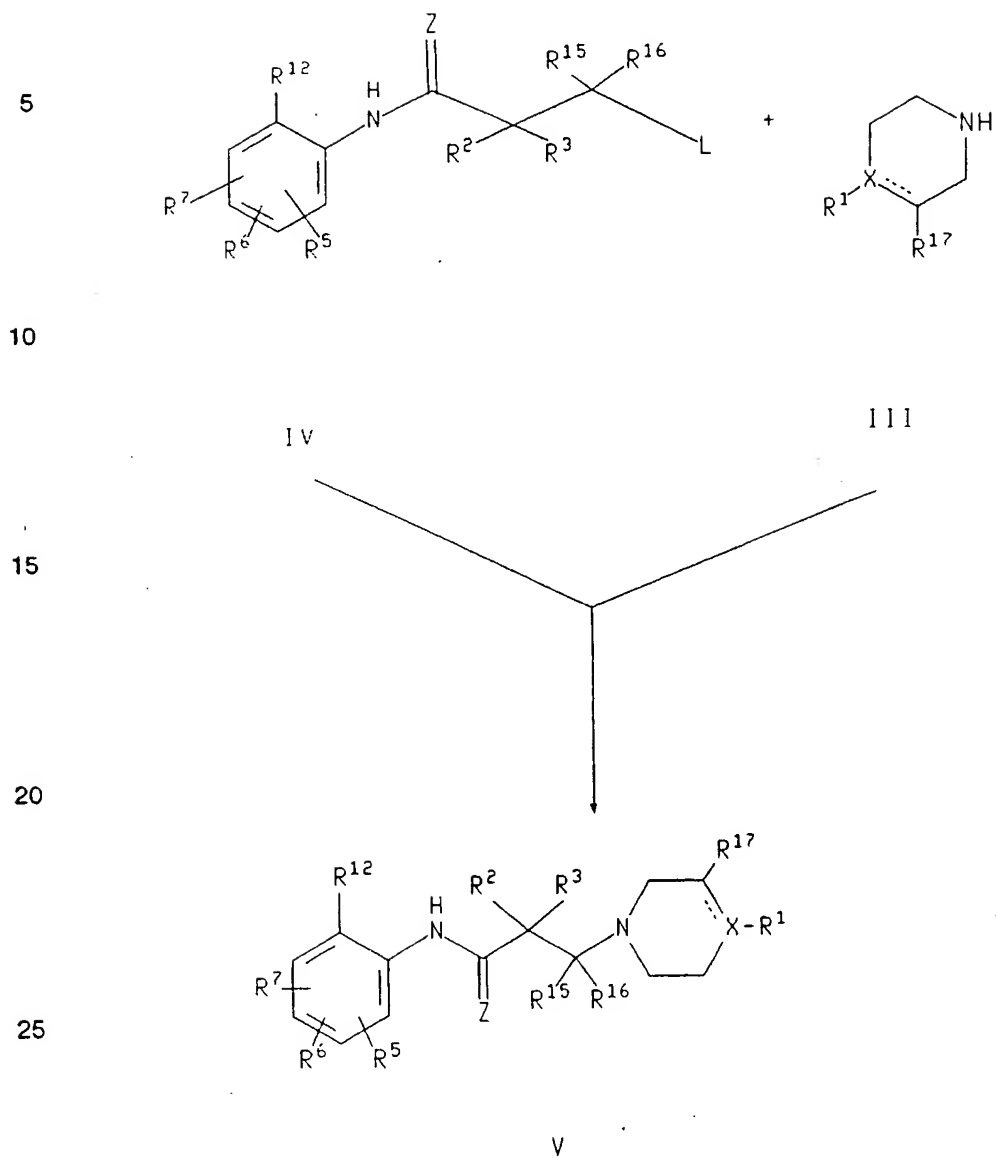
Detailed Description Of The Invention

The preparation of compounds of the formula I are described below. In the reaction schemes and discussion that follows, X, R¹, through R¹¹, R¹⁵ through R¹⁷ and the dotted lines in all formulae are defined as above.

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Scheme 1

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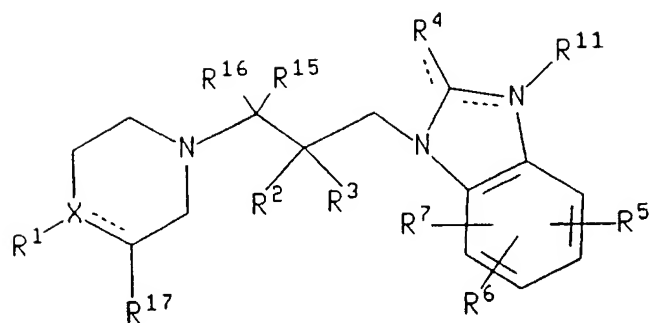
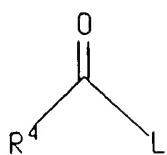
Scheme 2

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Scheme 2 (continued)

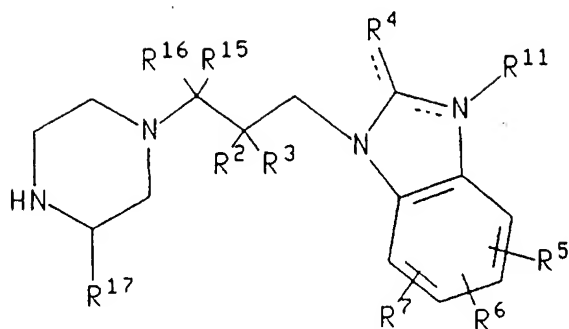
V

(Z=H, H)

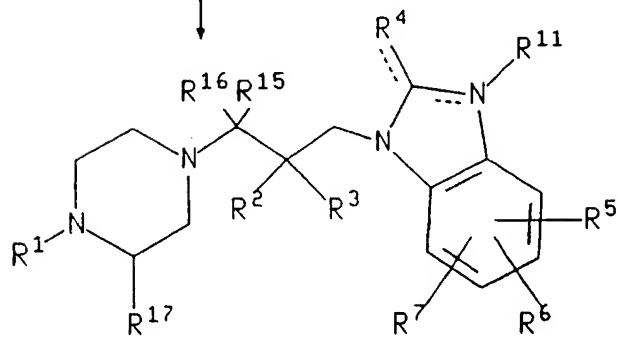


I

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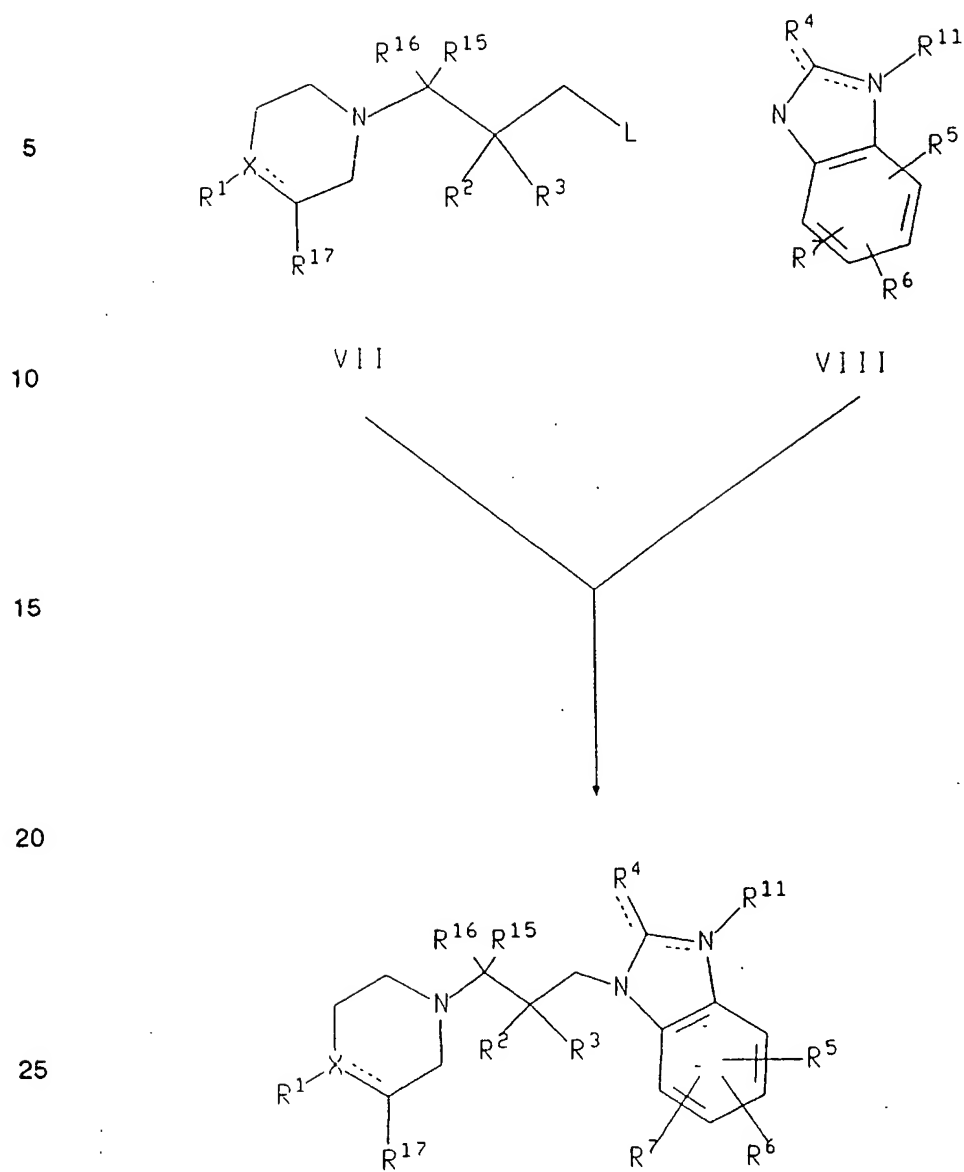
Scheme 3

VI

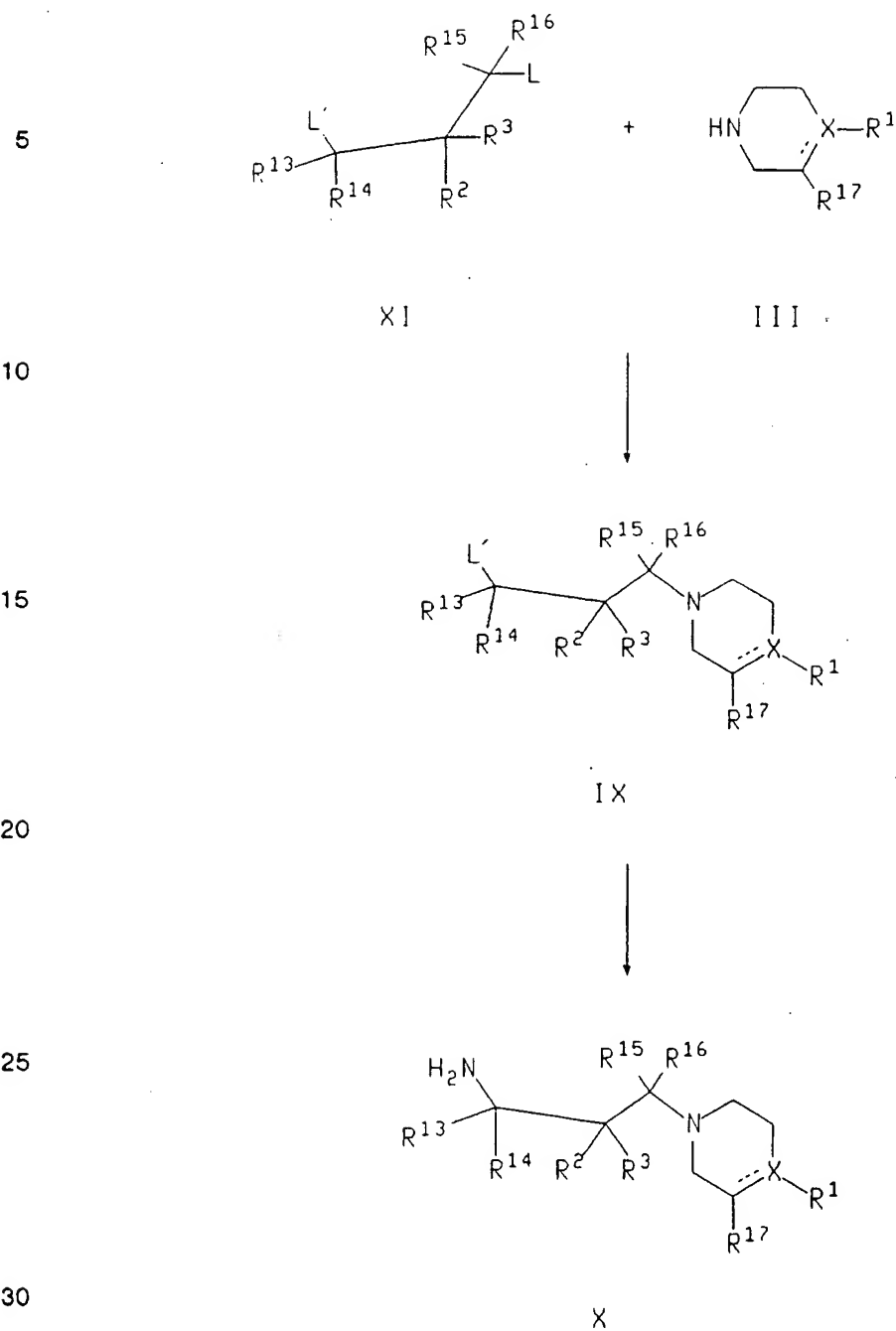
R¹L'

IA

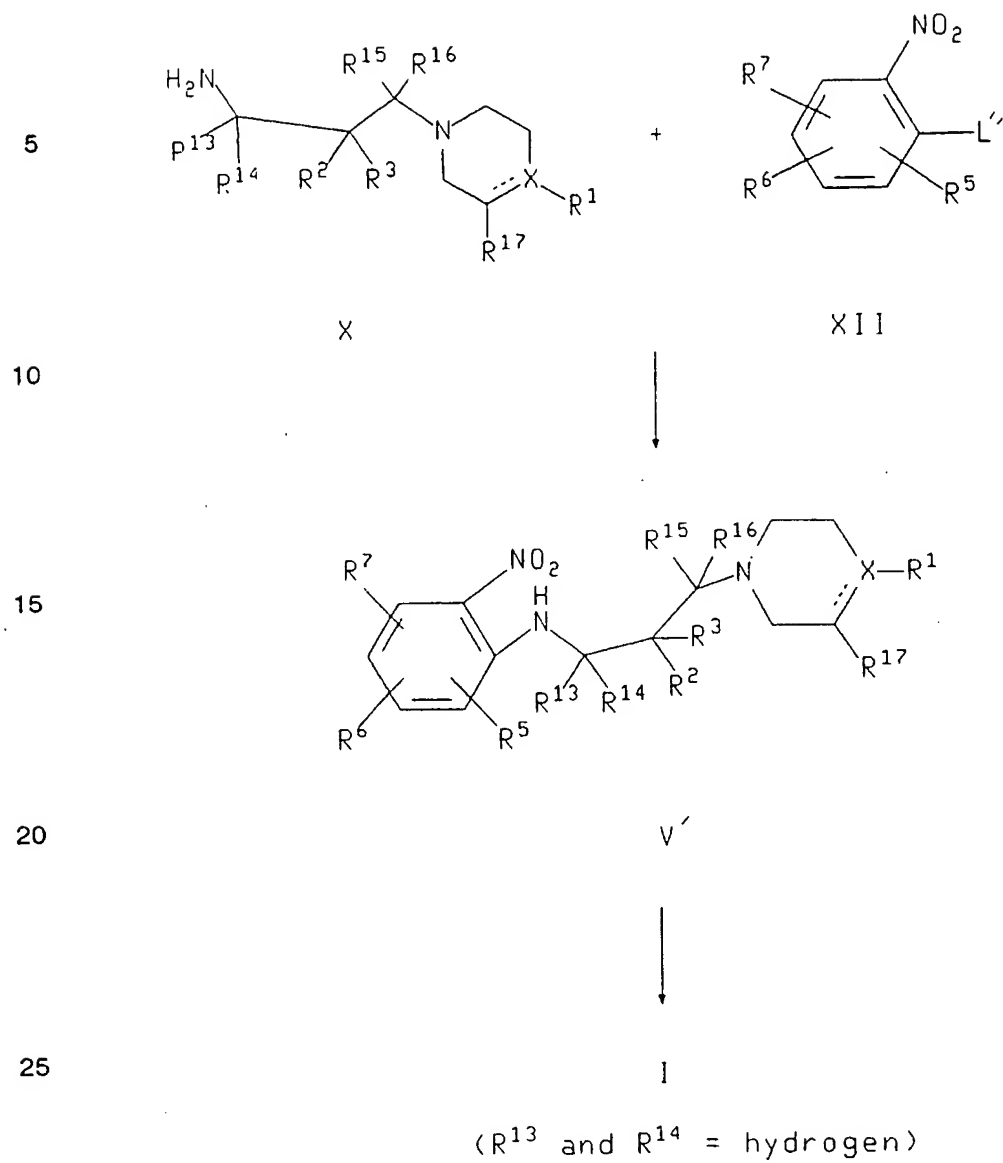
-19-

Scheme 4

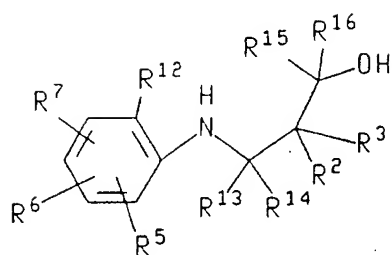
-20-

Scheme 5

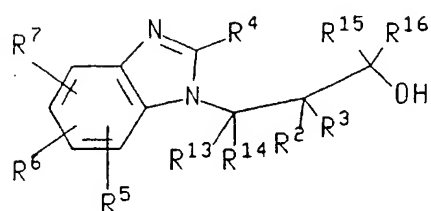
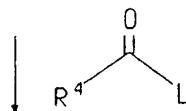
-21-

Scheme 5 (continued)

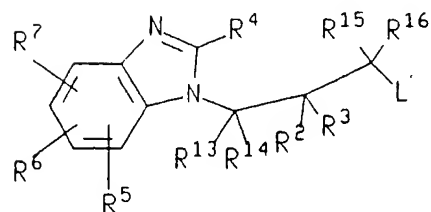
-22-

Scheme 6

XIII



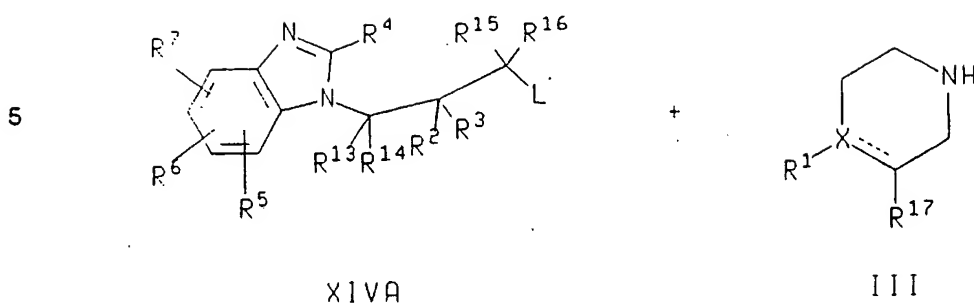
XIV



XIVA

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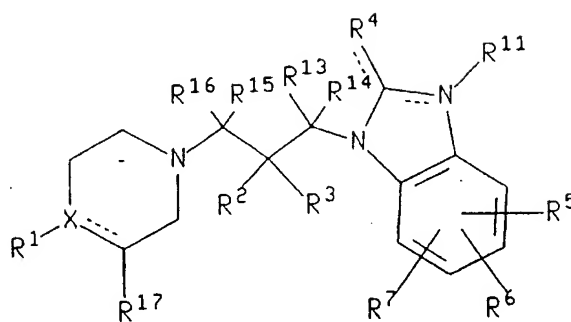
-23-

Scheme 6 (continued)

10

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I

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(R¹³ and R¹⁴ = hydrogen)

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Referring to scheme 1, a compound of the formula II wherein L is a leaving group is reacted with a compound of the formula III to form the corresponding compound of formula I. Suitable leaving groups include chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C₁-C₆)-alkylsulfonyl and -O-arylsulfonyl (e.g., -O-phenylsulfonyl, -O-naphthylsulfonyl or -O-paranitrophenylsulfonyl). Also, one of R² and R³ in compound II may be oxygen and may, together with the carbon to which it is attached and L, form an epoxy group, while the other of R² and R³ in such a case is selected from the values given above for these substituents. This reaction is generally carried out in an inert polar solvent such as a lower alcohol, a cyclic or acyclic alkylketone (e.g., ethanol or acetone), an alkylester (e.g., ethylacetate), a cyclic or acyclic mono or dialkylamide (e.g., N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one or dimethylformamide (DMF)), a cyclic or acyclic alkyl ether (e.g., tetrahydrofuran (THF) or diisopropyl ether) or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing solvents, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 150°C. It is preferably carried out in ethanol at a temperature from about 0°C to about the reflux temperature of the solvent. The presence of an acid acceptor such as an alkali carbonate or tertiary amine may be useful.

Referring to scheme 2, compounds of the formula I may also be prepared in the following manner. A compound of the formula IV wherein R^{1,2} is selected from NO₂, NH₂, ureido, thiourido and -NH(C=O)-Q, wherein Q is hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, wherein aryl and heteroaryl are defined as in the definition of R¹ above, Z represents one oxygen atom or two hydrogen atoms (each single bonded to the carbon to which Z is attached) and L represents a suitable leaving group, as defined above, is reacted with a compound of the formula III to form an intermediate compound of the formula V. This reaction is typically carried out in an inert polar solvent such as those described above for the reaction of scheme 1, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 150°C. The preferred solvent is ethanol and the preferred temperature is from about 0°C to about the reflux temperature of the solvent. As with the reaction of scheme 1, the addition of acid acceptors such as alkali carbonates and tertiary amines may be useful.

Intermediates of the formula V wherein Z is oxygen must be converted into the corresponding compounds wherein Z is (H, H). This can be accomplished using any of several standard methods of reduction that are well known in the art, e.g., by reacting the compound of formula V wherein Z is oxygen with a solution of lithium

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aluminum hydride in THF (preferably containing five molar equivalents) in a THF solvent.

The intermediate of formula V wherein Z is (H, H) may be converted, either in situ or after isolation, into the corresponding compound of formula I by reacting it with
5 a compound of the formula $R^4-C(=O)-L'$ wherein L' is an appropriate leaving group (e.g., chloro, bromo, iodo, fluoro, amino, $-O-(C_1-C_6)$ alkylsulfonyl or O-arylsulfonyl, wherein aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl and paranitrophenyl) and an optional dehydrating reagent. Suitable solvents for this reaction include inert polar solvents such as cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers (e.g., diisopropyl ether and THF), alkylesters
10 (e.g., ethylacetate), cyclic and acyclic alkylketones (e.g., ethanol and acetone), pyridine derivatives (e.g., lutidine and collidine), halogenated solvents (e.g., methylene chloride and dichloroethane) and cyclic, acyclic N,N-dialkyl alkylamides (e.g., DMF and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), and acyclic alkylamides (e.g., formamide or acetamide). The reaction temperature may range from about 0°C to about 150°C. Preferably, the
15 reactants (V and $R^4-C(=O)-L'$) are initially reacted at about 0°C and slowly brought to about the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. The addition of acid acceptors such as alkali carbonates and tertiary amines may be useful. Addition of a dehydrating agent may also be useful.

Scheme 3 illustrates a method of preparing compounds of the formula I wherein
20 X is nitrogen and R^1 is other than hydrogen. These compounds are referred to in scheme 3 and hereinafter as "compounds of the formula IA." Referring to scheme 3, such compounds can be prepared by reacting the corresponding compounds in which R^1 is hydrogen, with a compound of the formula R^1L' wherein R^1 is other than hydrogen and L' is a suitable leaving group, as defined above. Suitable solvents for this reaction
25 include cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides (e.g., DMF or N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone), and lower alcohols, and mixtures of two or more solvents from the foregoing classes. Ethanol and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone are preferred solvents. The reaction temperature may range from about 0°C to about 150°C, and is preferably between about 0°C and the reflux temperature of the solvent. Addition of an acid
30 acceptor such as an alkali metal carbonate or a tertiary amine may be useful.

An alternate method of preparing compounds of the formula I is illustrated in scheme 4. Referring to scheme 4, a compound of the formula VII, wherein L is a leaving group, is reacted with a compound of the formula VIII to yield a compound of

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the formula I. Examples of appropriate leaving groups are chlorine, bromino, iodo, -O-(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl and -O-arylsulfonyl wherein aryl may be, for example, phenyl, naphthyl or paranitrophenyl. Also, one of R² and R³ in formula VII can be oxygen and may form, together with the carbon to which it is attached and L, an epoxy group. In
5 such a case, the other of R² and R³ is selected from the values given above in the definitions of these substituents. This reaction is generally carried out using the similar solvents and under similar conditions to those described above for the reaction of scheme 3.

Compounds of the formula II are either commercially available or can be
10 prepared by methods well known to those skilled in the art from compounds of the formula IV. The preparation of a compound of the formula II from a compound of the formula IV is exemplified in Example 2.

Compounds of the formula IV can be prepared by procedures similar to those described in the following literature references: J. Org. Chem., **38**, 3498-502 (1973) and
15 J. Chem. Soc. (C), 2364-66 (1971). The synthesis of compounds of the formula IV may be accomplished, for example, by reacting a known aniline derivative containing an R¹² substituent in the ortho position with a substituted or unsubstituted propyl group transferring agent. Such a synthesis is described in Example 8.

Compounds of the general formula III where X is nitrogen may be prepared by
20 reacting commercially available piperazine with aryl transferring reagents such as, for example, 4-nitro fluorobenzene, 2-nitro fluorobenzene or similar reagents followed by well known procedures allowing the exchange of the nitro group against other substituents. Compounds of the general formula III where X is nitrogen may also be prepared by reacting commercially available piperazine with heteroaryl transferring
25 reagents such as, for example, 2-chloro or 2-S-methyl mercapto pyrimidine derivatives, 2-chloro- or 2-bromo pyridine derivatives, 2-chloro or 2-fluoro pyridazine derivatives, 3-chloro isobenzothiazole derivatives, 3-chloro isobenzoxazole derivatives, 3-chloro indazole derivatives or similar reagents. These reactions are preferably carried out in the form of mixtures containing, if desired, combinations of cyclic and acyclic mono and
30 dialkylamides and (C₁-C₄) alcohols or inert organic solvents such as cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers (e.g., diethyl ether and THF), cyclic and acyclic alkyl esters (e.g., ethylacetate and gamma butyrolactones), cyclic and acyclic alkylketones (e.g., acetone and cyclohexanone), pyridine derivatives or halogenated solvents, at temperatures

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ranging from about 0°C to about 150°C, preferable at a temperature from about 0°C to about the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. Addition of acid acceptors such as an alkali carbonates, tertiary amines or similar reagents, as well as the addition of dehydrating reagents, may be useful.

- 5 Compounds of the formula III wherein X is carbon may be prepared by reacting commercially available 4-piperidinone with aryl transferring reagents such as, for example, aryl grignards or similar reagents and by dehydrating the corresponding benzyl alcohol intermediates. Compounds of the general formula III wherein X is CH may be prepared by reacting commercially available 4-piperidinone with aryl transferring
10 reagents such as, for example, aryl grignards or similar reagents and by hydrogenating the corresponding benzyl alcohol intermediates with either platinum dioxide or palladium on carbon.

- Compounds of general structure VI may be prepared by reacting compounds of the general formula II with piperazine or 1-t-butoxycarbonyl piperazine, as exemplified
15 in Example 9, preferably in the form of a mixture containing combinations of (C₁-C₄) alcohols, cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides or inert organic solvents such as cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers, cyclic and acyclic alkyl esters, cyclic and acyclic alkylketones, pyridine derivatives or halogenated solvents at temperatures ranging from about 0°C to about 150°C, preferable from about 0°C to the reflux temperature of
20 the solvent mixture. Addition of acid acceptors such as an alkali carbonates, tertiary amines or similar reagents may be useful. Corresponding piperazine intermediates (having different substitution pattern) can be formed by reacting the products of the foregoing reaction with an appropriate aryl transferring reagent such as, for example, 4-nitro fluorobenzene, 2-nitro fluorobenzene or similar reagents followed by well known
25 procedures allowing the exchange of the nitro grouping against other substituents. Such corresponding piperazine intermediates can also be prepared by reacting other intermediates with heteroaryl transferring reagents such as for example, 2-chloro or 2-S-methyl mercapto pyrimidine derivatives, 2-chloro or 2-bromo pyridine derivatives, 2-chloro or 2-fluoro pyridazine derivatives, 3-chloro isobenzothiazole derivatives, 3-chloro
30 isobenzooxazole derivatives, 3-chloro indazole derivatives or similar reagents. The preferred conditions for these reactions are similar to those described in Example 11.

 Similarly, compounds of the formula VII may be prepared by reacting compounds of the formula III with compounds of the general formula L²-CH₂-

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CH(R²)CH(R³)-CH₂-L³, wherein each of L² and L³ is a leaving group that is, for example, independently selected from chloro, bromo, iodo, O-alkylsulfonyl and O-arylsulfonyl, wherein aryl may be, for example, phenyl, naphthyl or paranitrophenyl. Also, one of R² and R³ in the above compound may be oxygen and may, together with the carbon to which it is attached and L² or L³, form an epoxy group, while the other of R² and R³, in such a case, is selected from the values given above for those substituents. The reaction mixture may contain one or more of inert organic solvents such as cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers, cyclic and acyclic alkyl esters, cyclic and acyclic alkylketones, pyridine derivatives, halogenated solvents or cyclic and acyclic N,N-dialkylalkylamides.

10 The reaction temperature may range from about 0°C to about 150°C. The reaction is preferable carried out at a temperature from about 0°C to about the of the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. Addition of an acid acceptor such as an alkali carbonate, a tertiary amine or a similar reagent may be useful.

Compounds of the formula VIII may be prepared according to methods known in the literature, such as, for example, as described in J. Chem. Soc., p. 1396 (1949), Synth. Commun., 5, p. 461 (1975), J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 73, p. 4297 (1951) or J. Chem. Soc., 39, p. 3155 (1951).

15

Scheme 5 illustrates an alternate procedure for preparing compounds of the formula I. Referring to scheme 5, compounds of the formula IX may be prepared according to methods known in the literature, such as, for example, as described in the following references: J. Chem. Soc., pp. 1396 (1949); Synth. Commun., 5, pp. 461 (1975); J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 73, pp. 4297 (1951); and J. Chem. Soc., 39 pp. 3155 (1951). They may also be prepared, as shown in scheme 5, by reacting an otherwise optionally substituted C₃-C₄ alkyl derivative of the formula XI with a compound of the formula III. In structure XI, L and L' are defined as above and L' may optionally be a nitro group or a protected amino group when R¹³ and R¹⁴ are both hydrogen; R² and R³ are defined as above and one of R² and R³ may be oxygen and may, together with the carbon to which it is attached and either L or L', form an epoxy group; and R¹³ and R¹⁴ are both hydrogen except that the -CL'R¹³R¹⁴ moiety may optionally be a cyano group (i.e., wherein L' is nitrogen and R¹³ and R¹⁴ represent bonds rather than radicals).

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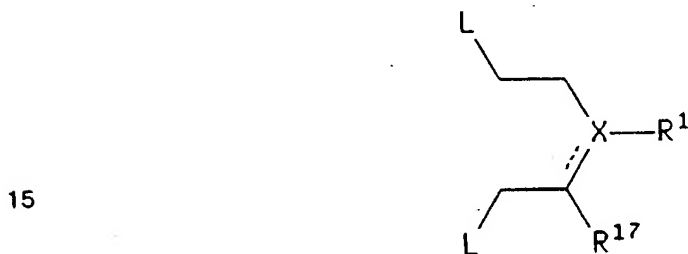
These reactions can be carried out conveniently in solvents such as alcohols, cyclic and acyclic alkylketones, cyclic and acyclic alkylesters, cyclic and acyclic mono

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and dialkylamides, acetonitrile and cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers, or mixtures of such solvents, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 150°C, preferably about 0°C or the reflux temperature of the solvent. The presence of an acid acceptor such as an alkali carbonate, tertiary amine or a similar reagent may be useful.

- 5 For all structures depicted in schemes 5 and 6, R¹³ and R¹⁴ are defined as above. Thus, for all such structures that do not contain the moiety -CL'R¹³R¹⁴, both R¹³ and R¹⁴ are hydrogen.

Alternatively, compounds of the general formula IX can be prepared from compounds of the general formula XI, as defined above, by reacting the latter
10 compounds with a compound of the formula



- 20 wherein L is defined as above. Appropriate and preferred solvents and conditions for this reaction are similar to those described above or the reaction of compounds of the formulae XI and III.

Compounds of the formula XVI can be prepared by a procedures analogous to that of Example 23A.

- 25 Compounds of the formula IX can be converted into the corresponding compounds of formula X as follows. When L' is a protected amino group, (for example, when the nitrogen protecting group is benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl or trityl), the protecting group can be removed using either hydrogenation or acidic deprotection conditions. When L' is an amino group protected by a phthalimido group,
30 the protecting group may be conveniently removed using standard hydrogenation conditions. When L' is a nitro group, the compound of formula X may be formed by reducing the compound of formula IX using conventional reduction methods. For example, the reduction can be accomplished using a hydride reagent such as lithium

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aluminum hydride or borane, or using hydrogen gas in the presence of catalyst such as Raney nickel, platinum oxide, palladium/carbon or another appropriate catalyst.

When the $-CL'R^{13}R^{14}$ moiety is a cyano group, it can be reduced to a $-CH_2NH_2$ group using, for example, a hydride reagent such as lithium aluminum hydride or sodium borohydride in the presence of cobalt chloride, or using other conventional methods known to those skilled in the art.

Reaction of the resulting compound of the formula X with a compound of the formula XII, wherein L'' is defined as L' above, as shown on the second page of scheme 5, yields a compound of the formula V wherein R^{12} is nitro (referred to in scheme 5 and hereinafter as a compound of the formula V'), which can then be converted into the corresponding compound of the formula I wherein R^4 is methyl or trifluoromethyl by reducing the nitro group. This can be accomplished using a metal such as zinc or tin in acetic acid or trifluoroacetic acid, containing, if desired, the corresponding acid anhydride. In the case of compounds of the formula V' containing hydroxy substituents, an ester intermediate may be formed, which can then be converted into the corresponding hydroxy substituted compound of the formula I using conventional methods known to those skilled in the art. For example, such esters can be treated with an aqueous alkali hydroxide solution in an appropriate solvent selected from cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides and C_1 - C_4 alcohols and mixtures thereof at a temperature from about 0°C to about 150°C , preferably from about 0°C to about the reflux temperature. The hydroxy substituted compounds of the formula I can be converted into the corresponding alkoxy substituted compounds by treating them first with an alkali hydride such as sodium hydride or calcium hydride, using solvents and conditions as described immediately above, and then with an alkylating agent such as, for example, methyl iodide, dimethylsulfate, allyl iodide, ethyl iodide or a similar reagent. Scheme 6 illustrates the preparation of compounds of the formula I starting with the hydroxy derivatives of formula XIII. The starting materials of formula XIII wherein R^{12} is nitro may be prepared by reacting a compound of the formula XI wherein L is hydroxy and L' is amino with a compound of the formula XII, as defined above and depicted in scheme 5. This reaction is generally carried out using similar solvents and conditions to both specified for the reaction of scheme 1.

Compounds of the formula XIII wherein R^{12} is nitro may be converted into the corresponding compounds of the formula XIII wherein R^{12} is amino using conventional

reduction methods such as, for example, using a mixture of a metal such as zinc or tin and hydrochloric acid or, alternatively, using a hydride donating reagent such as, for example, lithium aluminum hydride or borane, or hydrogenating the reactant of formula XIII in the presence of a catalyst such as Raney nickel, platinum oxide or
5 palladium/carbon.

Compounds of the formula XIII wherein R^{12} is nitro can be converted into the corresponding compounds of formula XIV wherein R^4 is methyl or trifluoromethyl by reducing the nitro group with a metal such as zinc or tin in acetic acid or trifluoroacetic acid containing, if desired, the corresponding acid anhydride. This reaction produces
10 an ester intermediate which can then be converted into compounds of the formula XIV using standard methods known to those skilled in the art. For example, the esters can be treated with an aqueous alkali hydroxide solution in an appropriate solvent selected from cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides and C_1 - C_4 alcohols, at temperatures from about 0°C to about 150°C , preferably from about 0°C to about the reflux
15 temperature.

Alternatively, compounds of the formula XIV wherein R^4 is an alkyl group may be prepared by reacting the appropriate compounds of the formula XIII wherein R^{12} is amino with an acylating agent such as propionyl chloride, isopropionyl bromide, acetic acid/formic acid anhydride, ethyl formate or a similar reagent, and then treating the
20 intermediary product formed with an aqueous solution of an acid such as hydrochloric acid, trifluoroacetic acid or methanesulfonic acid, preferably hydrochloric acid at a temperature ranging from about 0°C to about the boiling point of the acid.

Compounds of the formula XIV wherein R^4 is methyl or trifluoromethyl may be converted into compounds of the formula XIVA wherein L' is a leaving group such as
25 chloro, bromo, iodo, O-alkylsulfonyl or O-arylsulfonyl, wherein aryl may be, for example, phenyl, naphthyl, or paranitrophenyl, by reacting them with an alkyl or arylsulfonylchloride in an appropriate solvent such as one selected from cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides, chloroform, methylene chloride and pyridine and mixtures of the foregoing solvents at a temperature ranging from about -25°C to about
30 25°C , preferably at about -25°C , in presence of an acid acceptor such as an alkali carbonate, a tertiary amine or a similar reagent. When L' in the desired compound of formula XIVA is chloro, bromo or iodo, the corresponding compound of formula XIV wherein R^4 is methyl or trifluoromethyl is reacted with the appropriate phosphoryl or

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thionyl halide in a solvent such as chloroform, methylene chloride, benzene, toluene or mixtures thereof, at a temperature ranging from about 0°C to about the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture, preferably at the reflux temperature.

Compounds of the formula XIVA wherein R⁴ is methyl or trifluoromethyl and L' is a leaving group such as, for example, chloro, bromo, iodo, O-alkylsulfonyl and O-arylsulfonyl, wherein aryl may be, for example, phenyl, naphthyl, or parantitrophenyl, can be converted into compounds of the formula I by reacting said compound XIVA with a compound of general formula III, using similar solvents and conditions to those specified for the reaction shown in scheme 1.

These reactions can conveniently be carried out in solvents such as alcohols, cyclic and acyclic alkylketones, cyclic and acyclic alkylesters, cyclic and acyclic mono and dialkylamides, acetonitrile, and cyclic and acyclic alkyl ethers at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 150°C, preferable at 0°C or the boiling point of the same solvent. The presence of an acid acceptor such as an alkali carbonate, a tertiary amine or similar reagents may be useful.

The preparation of other compounds of the formula I not specifically described in the foregoing experimental section can be accomplished using combinations of the reactions described above that will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

In each of the reactions discussed or illustrated in schemes 1 to 4 above, pressure is not critical unless otherwise indicated. Pressures from about 0.5 atmospheres to about 4 atmospheres are generally acceptable, and ambient pressure, i.e., about 1 atmosphere, is preferred as a matter of convenience.

The novel compounds of the formula I and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof (hereinafter "the therapeutic compounds of this invention") are useful as dopaminergic agents, i.e., they possess the ability to alter dopamine mediated neurotransmission in mammals, including humans. They are therefore able to function as therapeutic agents in the treatment of a variety of conditions in mammals, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by an increase or decrease in dopamine mediated neurotransmission. Such conditions include sleep disorders, sexual disorders (including sexual dysfunction), gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders,

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obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS such as meningitis, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies such as drug and alcohol addictions, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ocular disorders (including glaucoma), dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders such as akathisia, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation.

10 The compounds of the formula I that are basic in nature are capable of forming a wide variety of different salts with various inorganic and organic acids. Although such salts must be pharmaceutically acceptable for administration to animals, it is often desirable in practice to initially isolate a compound of the Formula I from the reaction mixture as a pharmaceutically unacceptable salt and then simply convert the latter back
15 to the free base compound by treatment with an alkaline reagent and subsequently convert the latter free base to a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt. The acid addition salts of the base compounds of this invention are readily prepared by treating the base compound with a substantially equivalent amount of the chosen mineral or organic acid in an aqueous solvent medium or in a suitable organic solvent,
20 such as methanol or ethanol. Upon careful evaporation of the solvent, the desired solid salt is readily obtained. The desired acid salt can also be precipitated from a solution of the free base in an organic solvent by adding to the solution an appropriate mineral or organic acid.

 The therapeutic compounds of this invention can be administered orally,
25 transdermally (e.g., through the use of a patch), parenterally or topically. Oral administration is preferred. In general, these compounds are most desirably administered in dosages ranging from about 0.01 mg up to about 250 mg per day, although variations may occur depending on the weight and condition of the person being treated and the particular route of administration chosen. In some instances,
30 dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect, provided that such larger doses are first divided into several small doses for administration throughout the day.

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The therapeutic compounds of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents by either of the two routes previously indicated, and such administration may be carried out in single or multiple doses. More particularly, the novel therapeutic compounds of this invention
5 can be administered in a wide variety of different dosage forms, i.e., they may be combined with various pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers in the form of tablets, capsules, lozenges, troches, hard candies, powders, sprays, creams, salves, suppositories, jellies, gels, pastes, lotions, ointments, elixirs, syrups, and the like. Such carriers include solid diluents or fillers, sterile aqueous media and various non-toxic
10 organic solvents, etc. Moreover, oral pharmaceutical compositions can be suitably sweetened and/or flavored.

For oral administration, tablets containing various excipients such as microcrystalline cellulose, sodium citrate, calcium carbonate, dicalcium phosphate and glycine may be employed along with various disintegrants such as starch (and
15 preferably corn, potato or tapioca starch), alginic acid and certain complex silicates, together with granulation binders like polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, gelatin and acacia. Additionally, lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate and talc are often very useful for tableting purposes. Solid compositions of a similar type may also be employed as fillers in gelatin capsules; preferred materials in this
20 connection also include lactose or milk sugar as well as high molecular weight polyethylene glycols. When aqueous suspensions and/or elixirs are desired for oral administration, the active ingredient may be combined with various sweetening or flavoring agents, coloring matter or dyes, and, if so desired, emulsifying and/or suspending agents as well, together with such diluents as water, ethanol, propylene
25 glycol, glycerin and various like combinations thereof.

For parenteral administration, solutions of a compound of the present invention in either sesame or peanut oil or in aqueous propylene glycol may be employed. The aqueous solutions should be suitably buffered if necessary and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic. These aqueous solutions are suitable for intravenous injection
30 purposes. The oily solutions are suitable for intra-articular, intramuscular and subcutaneous injection purposes. The preparation of all these solutions under sterile conditions is readily accomplished by standard pharmaceutical techniques well known to those skilled in the art.

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Additionally, it is also possible to administer the compounds of the present invention topically when treating inflammatory conditions of the skin and this may preferably be done by way of creams, jellies, gels, pastes, ointments and the like, in accordance with standard pharmaceutical practice.

- 5 The D4 dopaminergic activity of the compounds of the present invention may be determined by the following procedure.

 The determination of D4 dopaminergic activity has been described by Van Tol et al., Nature, vol. 350, 610 (London, 1991). Clonal cell lines expressing the human dopamine D4 receptor are harvested and homogenized (teflon pestle) in a 50 mM
10 Tris.HCl (pH 7.4 at 4°C) buffer containing 5 mM EDTA, 1.5 mM calcium chloride (CaCl₂), 5 mM magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), 5mM potassium chloride (KCl) and 120 mM sodium chloride (NaCl). The homogenates are centrifugated for 15 min. at 39,000 g, and the resulting pellets resuspended in a buffer at a concentration of 150-250 µg/ml. For saturation experiments, 0.25 ml aliquots of tissue homogenate are incubated in
15 duplicate with increasing concentrations of [³H] Spiperone (70.3 Ci/mmol; 10-3000 pM final concentration) for 30-120 minutes at 22°C in a total volume of 1 ml. For competition binding experiments, assays are initiated by the addition of 0.25 ml of membrane and incubated in duplicate with the indicated concentrations of competing ligands (10⁻¹⁴-10⁻³ M) and [³H]Spiperone (100-300 pM) in either the absence or
20 presence of 200 µM GPP(NH)^P (5'/guanylylimidodiphosphate), where indicated, for 60-120 min at 22°C. Assays are terminated by rapid filtration through a Titertek cell harvester and the filters subsequently monitored for tritium as described by Sunahara, R.K. et al., Nature, 346, 76-80 (1990). For all experiments, specific [³H]Spiperone binding is defined as that inhibited by 1-10 µM (+) Butaclamol or 1 µM Spiperone.
25 Both saturation and competition binding data are analyzed by the non-linear least square curve-fitting program Ligand run on a digital Micro-PP-11 as described by Sunahara et al.

 Approximately 80 compounds of the present invention were tested using the above procedure. All such compounds tested displaced [³H]-spiperone binding with
30 a K_i of less than 1 µM.

 The present invention is illustrated by the following examples. It will be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the specific details of these examples. Melting points are uncorrected.

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EXAMPLE 1**1-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-4-oxiranylmethyl-piperazine**

A mixture of 2.5 gm of 1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazine, 3.0 gm of 2S-(+)glycidyl 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate (available from Aldrich) and 15 ml dimethylformamide (DMF) was kept for 12 hours at ambient temperature. Thirty milliliters of water was added and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (CH_2Cl_2). The CH_2Cl_2 extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over sodium sulfate (Na_2SO_4). The crude product (3.5 gm of an oil) obtained after removing the solvents was purified by using chromatography: solid phase (SiO_2 ; 40 μm ; Baker); eluent 5% methanol (CH_3OH) in chloroform (CHCl_3). A sample of this purified material showed a M^+ / z of 236 and had an optical rotation of $[\alpha]_D = -15.54$ ($c = 1.1$, CHCl_3).

EXAMPLE 2**1-Oxiranylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole**

A mixture of 2.7 gm of 1-H-benzoimidazole, and 1 gm sodiumhydride (60%) in 30 ml DMF was kept for 0.3 hours at ambient temperature. Six grams of 2R-(-) glycidyl 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate (available from Aldrich) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 hours. The mixture was added to 100 ml ice and water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The crude product (6.5 gm of an oil) obtained after removing the solvents was purified by using chromatography: solid phase (silicon dioxide (SiO_2); 40 μm ; Baker); eluent 2% CH_3OH in CHCl_3 . A sample of this purified material showed a M^+ / z of 175.

EXAMPLE 3

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol (both enantiomers)

A mixture of 0.26 gm of 1-H-benzoimidazole and 0.097 gm sodium hydride (60%) in 6 ml N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) was kept for 0.3 hours at ambient temperature. 1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-4-(-)-oxiranylmethyl-piperazine (0.52 gm) was added and the mixture was stirred for 12 hours. This mixture was added to 10 ml ice and water and extracted with chloroform. The chloroform extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The crude product (1.0 gm of an oil) obtained after removing the solvents was purified using chromatography: solid phase (SiO_2 ; 40 μm ; Baker); eluent 2% CH_3OH in CHCl_3 . A sample of this purified material showed a

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M+/z of 355. It was transformed into its hydrochloride salt by treating an ethanolic suspension of this material with a mixture of ethyl ether/HCl. This salt had a melting point of 246-247°C and exhibited an optical rotation of $[\alpha]_D = -7.3$ ($c=0.5$, MeOH).

A mixture of 2.0 gm of 1-oxiranylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole, 2.37 gm of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazine and 25 ml ethanol was stirred at 80°C for 48 hours. This mixture was added to 25 ml ice cold aqueous sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and desiccated with Na₂SO₄. The crude product (94.18 gm of an oil) obtained after removal of solvents was purified using flash chromatography: solid phase (SiO₂; 40μm; Baker); eluent 5% CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂. A sample of this purified material (2.14 gm) was transformed into its hydrochloride salt by treating an ethanolic suspension of this material with a mixture of ethyl ether/HCl. This salt had a melting point of 238-240°C and exhibited an optical rotation of $[\alpha]_D = -7.3$ ($c=0.5$, MeOH).

EXAMPLE 4

15 1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzoimidazole

A mixture of 5.0 gm of {3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-(4-fluoro, 2-amino-phenyl)-amine, 18 ml of formic acid and 75 ml formamide was kept for 12 hours at 140-145°C. Water (300 ml) was added, and the mixture was made alkaline with ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extract was collected, washed with water (2 x 20 ml) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The crude product obtained after removal of solvents was purified using chromatography: solid phase (SiO₂; 40μm; Baker); eluent 2% CH₃OH in CHCl₃. A sample of this purified material (2.2 gm) was transformed into its hydrochloride salt by treating an ethanolic suspension of this material with a mixture of ethyl ether/HCl. This salt exhibited a melting point of 236°C and a mass of 356.18.

EXAMPLE 5

N-(2-Nitro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]propionamide

A mixture of 14.8 gm of N-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-bromo-propionamide, 9.0 gm of 1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazine, 6.46 gm of diisopropylethylamine and 150 ml DMF was kept for 48 hours at 150°C. Water (300 ml) was added at ambient temperature and the mixture was extracted with CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na₂SO₄. The crude product obtained after removing the

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solvents was purified by using chromatography: solid phase (SiO₂; 40 μ m; Baker); eluent CHCl₃. A sample of this purified material (12.7 gm) exhibited the following data. M+/z of 405.

EXAMPLE 6

5 {3-[4-(4-Fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-(2-aminophenyl)amine

A mixture of 1.03 gm of N-(2-amino-4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propionamide and 8.5 ml of a solution of 1.0 M lithium aluminum hydride in THF (added at a temperature of 9°C over a period of 0.3 hours) and 10 ml THF was kept for 12 hours at 20-25°C. Upon the slow addition of 1.7 ml 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide (NaOH), the mixture was treated with magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄) and the THF layer separated. The crude product, obtained after removing the solvent, was purified using standard chromatography: solid phase (SiO₂; 40 μ m; Baker); eluent 5% ethanol in ethyl acetate. A sample of this purified material (0.22 gm) exhibited the following data. M+/z of 361.

EXAMPLE 7

15

N-(2-Amino-4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]propionamide

A mixture of 3.0 gm of N-(2-nitro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propionamide, 1 gm 5% palladium on carbon, 100 ml ethanol and 10 ml conc. hydrochloric acid was kept on a Parr Shaker in the presence of 45 psi hydrogen gas at 20-25°C. Upon cessation of hydrogen gas uptake, the mixture was purged with nitrogen and the ethanol layer separated. The crude product, obtained after removal of solvents, was purified by using standard chromatography: solid phase (SiO₂; 40 μ m; Baker) eluent 5% ethanol in ethyl acetate. A sample of this purified material (0.22 gm) exhibited the following data. M+/z of 375.

EXAMPLE 8

25

N-(2-Nitro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-bromopropionamide

A mixture of 7.8 gm of 4-fluoro-2-nitroaniline, 8.57 gm of 3-bromo propionylchloride (added at a temperature of 0°C over a period of 0.3 hours), 6.5 gm of diisopropylethylamine and 150 ml CH₂Cl₂ was kept for 48 hours at 20-25°C. Water (300 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ extract was collected, washed with water (2 x 20 ml) and desiccated with Na₂SO₄. The crude product (14.7 gm) obtained after removal of solvents was used without further

purification. A sample of this crude material (14.79 gm) exhibited the following data.
M+/z of 292.

EXAMPLE 9

5 4-[3-(2-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-benzimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester

A mixture of 5.0 gm of 1-t-butoxycarbonyl piperazine, 6.26 gm of 1-(3-chloro propyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-2-one (available from Janssen) and 4.16 gm diisopropylethylamine in 150 ml ethanol was kept for 12 hours at 80°C. Upon cooling to ambient temperature, 100 ml water was added and the mixture is extracted with
10 CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na₂SO₄. After removing solvents 10 gm of a yellowish oil was obtained which was used without further purification in Example 10.

EXAMPLE 10

15 1-[4-(3-Piperazine-1-yl)propyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-2-one
A saturated solution of hydrochloric acid in 2 ml methanol and of 0.43 gm of 1-[4-(3-(t-butoxycarbonyl)piperazine-1-yl)propyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-2-one was kept for 1 hour at 50°C. Upon cooling to ambient temperature the solvent was removed, and the residue suspended in 10 ml water made basic with aqueous ammonium hydroxide solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃. The
20 CHCl₃ extract is collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na₂SO₄. After removing solvents, 0.207 gm of a yellowish oil was obtained which was used without further purification in Example 11.

EXAMPLE 11

25 1-{3-[4-(5-Trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]}-propyl}-1,3-dihydro-benzimidazol-2-one

A mixture of 0.054 gm of 2-chloro 5-trifluoromethyl pyridine, 0.115 gm of 1-[4-(3-piperazine-1-yl)propyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-2-one and 0.194 gm of diisopropylethylamine in 1.0 ml 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone was kept for 3 hours at 150°C. Upon cooling to ambient temperature and addition of 10 ml water the mixture was
30 acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid and extracted 2 x 5 ml ethyl ether. The aqueous layer was then neutralized with aqueous ammonium hydroxide solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extract was collected, washed with 20 ml water and dried over Na₂SO₄. The crude product (0.085 gm) obtained after

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removing the solvents was purified using chromatography: solid phase (SiO_2 ; 40 μM ; Baker); eluent 2% CH_3OH in CHCl_3 . A sample of this purified material (0.015 gm) was transferred into its hydrochloride salt (mp: 183 °C) by treating an ethanolic suspension of this material with a mixture of ethyl ether/HCl. This sample exhibited an M^+/z of 406.

5

EXAMPLE 12**5-Fluoro-1-[3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl]-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole**

A mixture of 5.0 gm of (3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-propyl)-(4-fluoro, 2-amino-phenyl) amine in 20 ml acetic acid anhydride and 100 ml pyridine was refluxed for 10 12 hours. The solvent was removed, the residue made alkaline with sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and extracted with methylene chloride (CH_2Cl_2). The CH_2Cl_2 layer was collected, washed with water (2x 20 ml) and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The crude product, obtained after removal of solvents, was purified using chromatography: solid phase (SiO_2 ; 40 μm ; Baker); eluent 0.5-2% CH_3OH in CHCl_3 . A sample of this purified material 15 was transformed into its hydrochloride salt by treating an ethanolic suspension of this material with a mixture of ethyl ether/HCl. This salt exhibited a melting point of 238-240 and a M^+/z of 371.

EXAMPLE 13**5-Fluoro-1-[3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole**

20

A. 3-(2-Amino-4-fluoro-phenylamino)-propan-1-ol

A mixture of 9.12 gm of 3-(2-nitro-4-fluoro-phenylamino)-propan-1-ol and 4.0 gm of 10% Pd on carbon is suspended in 300 ml methanol and shaken at ambient temperature under hydrogen (40 psi) for 12 hours. Thereafter, insoluble materials are 25 removed by filtration and the reaction mixture is concentrated to a dark brown oil (5.25 gm of crude 3-(2-amino-4-fluoro-phenylamino)-propan-1-ol).

B. 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole

A mixture of 5.1 gm of 3-(2-amino-4-fluoro-phenylamino)-propan-1-ol in 50.0 ml of trifluoroacetic acid anhydride (TFAA) is heated under reflux for 5 hours. Excess TFAA 30 is removed and the residue dissolved in 500 ml ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate layer is and washed 2X with 100 ml 2N NaOH. The water layer is extracted with 3 X 200 ml ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate layers are combined and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is purified by flash column chromatography

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(solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with hexane followed by a mixture of ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1). Obtained is a solid material consisting of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole.

5 C. 1-(3-methanesulfonyloxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole

To a cold (-25°C), stirred mixture of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (2.09 gm), triethylamine (2.22 ml) and methylene chloride (12 ml) is dropwise added a solution of methanesulfonic acid anhydride (2.78 gm) in 14 ml CH₂Cl₂. After complete addition, the mixture is warmed to ambient temperature,
10 extracted with water (2 X 20 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to a thick brown oil {crude methanesulfonylester of above 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole}.

D. 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzimidazole

15 A mixture of above crude methanesulfonylester of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole, triethylamine (2.2 ml) and 4-fluorophenylpiperazine (2.87 gm) is dissolved in 14 ml ethanol and heated under reflux for 12 hours. The residue, obtained after removed of solvents, is dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with water (2 X 10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and
20 the products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient elution starting with hexane followed by a mixture of ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1). Obtained is a solid material consisting of 5-fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzimidazole (M+/Z 424).

EXAMPLE 14

25 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzimidazole

To a refluxing, stirred mixture of 11.5 gm of 3-(2-nitro-4-fluoro-phenylamino)-propan-1-ol, 200 ml acetic acid and 15.1 ml acetic acid anhydride is added small portions of zinc (Zn) dust until no discoloration of the reaction mixture is observed
30 (approx. 4 hours). Solids are removed by filtration, washed with acetic acid and the combined acetic acid layer concentrated to a black oil. This oily residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with 2 X 50 ml water. The organic layer is collected, the solvent removed and the residue treated with a mixture of 1N NaOH (150 ml)/dioxane

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(approx. 150 ml) until the hydrolysis of the intermediary 1-(3-acetoxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole is completed. Thereafter, the mixture is concentrated to a dark brown oil. This oily product can be purified by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with ethyl acetate followed by ethyl acetate/ethanol 8:2).
5 Obtained are 4.67 gm of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (M+/Z 421).

EXAMPLE 15

1-(3-methanesulfonyloxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole

To a stirred, cold mixture (-25°C) of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (1.99 gm), triethylamine (1.47 ml) and methylenechloride (40 ml) in 15 ml CH₂Cl₂. After complete addition, the mixture is warmed to ambient temperature, extracted with water (2 X 20 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to a thick brown oil consisting of crude 1-(3-methanesulfonyloxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole.

EXAMPLE 16

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(t-butoxycarbonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole

To a stirred, cold mixture (-25°C) of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (0.6 gm), triethylamine (0.44 ml) and methylenechloride (10 ml) is dropwise added a solution of methanesulfonylchloride (0.24 ml) in 1.5 ml CH₂Cl₂. After complete addition, the mixture is warmed to ambient temperature, extracted with water (2 X 20 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to a thick brown oil consisting of crude 1-(3-methanesulfonyloxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole. A mixture of this methanesulfonylester and t-butylpiperazine carboxylate (0.7 gm) is dissolved in 5 ml ethanol and heated under reflux for 12 hours. Thereafter, the solvent is removed, the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with water (10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with hexane followed by a mixture of ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1). Obtained is a solid material consisting of 5-fluoro-1-{3-[4-(t-butoxycarbonyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole.

EXAMPLE 17**1-{3-[4-(6-Chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole**

A mixture of crude methanesulfonylester of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (prepared from 0.68 gm of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole as described before), 0.68 ml triethylamine and 0.97 gm of 4-(6-chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)piperazine is dissolved in 1.4 ml ethanol and heated under reflux for 12 hours. The solvent is removed, the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with water (2 X 10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with ethyl acetate followed by a mixture of ethyl acetate/methanol 8:1). Obtained is a solid material consisting of 1-{3-[4-(6-chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole (M + /Z 388).

EXAMPLE 18**3-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline****A. 2,3,4,4a,5,6-Hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline**

Bromo acetyl bromide (1.46 ml) is slowly added to a stirred mixture of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid methylester (3.2 gm), triethylamine (2.9 ml) and 120 ml tetrahydrofuran. After the reaction proceeds for 1 hour precipitates are removed by filtration and the filtrate concentrated to a dark oil. This oil is dissolved in 120 ml ethanol and upon addition of benzylamine (3.7 ml) heated under reflux for 18 hours. Thereafter, solvents are removed and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate (200 ml) and water (200 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water (2 X 20 ml), brine (1 X 50 ml) and dried over magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient 25% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 50% ethyl acetate hexane. Obtained are 1.9 gm of an orange colored solid that consists of the diketopiperazine derivative of N-benzyl glycine and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid. (C₁₉H₁₈N₂O₂ - Found: C, 74.45%; H, 5.99%; N, 9.23%).

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B. 3-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline

A solution of above diketopiperazine ($C_{18}H_{18}N_2O_2$) (1.0 gm) in 20 ml tetrahydrofuran is added slowly to a slurry of 0.225 mg of $LiAlH_4$ in 25 ml THF. After
 5 complete addition the mixture is refluxed under nitrogen for 12 hours. The mixture is brought to ambient temperature, quenched with aqueous Na_2SO_4 solution and filtered through Celite®. The filtrate is concentrated and products isolated by flash chromatography solid phase: SiO_2 , eluent: 10% ethyl acetate in hexane. Obtained is a light orange oil (0.56 gm) consisting of 3-benzyl-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-
 10 pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline ($M+ 279$). This product is shaken under 50 psi H_2 in presence of 200 mg palladium on carbon for 7 hours in 22 ml of 2% acetic acid/methanol at ambient temperature. Insoluble material is removed by filtration (Celite®), the filtrate concentrated and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and 1N NaOH. The ethyl acetate is washed with water and brine (each 2 X 10 ml), dried over Na_2SO_4 and
 15 concentrated. Obtained are 0.134 gm of 2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline ($M+/Z 189$).

EXAMPLE 19

3-[3-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline

20 A mixture of crude methanesulfonylester of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole (prepared from 0.72 mmol of 1-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-methyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole as described before), triethylamine (0.2 ml) and 2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline (0.1 gm) is dissolved in 10 ml ethanol/tetrahydrofuran (1/1) and heated under reflux for 12 hours. Thereafter,
 25 solvents are removed, the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate and the ethyl acetate layer washed with water (2 X 10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and products isolated by high pressure liquid chromatography using as stationary phase a Waters C18 Bondapak 125 Å column; eluent: 70% methanol/water, flow 10 ml/min). Obtained is 3-[3-(5-fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-propyl]-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-1H-
 30 pyrazino[1,2-a]quinoline (62 mg). This product is transformed into its methanesulfonate salt by treating a solution of above material in methylenechloride with methane sulfonic acid. $C_{23}H_{27}FN_4 \cdot x CH_3O_3S$ - Found: C, 56.45; H, 6.91; N, 10.97.

EXAMPLE 20

1-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol

5 A. 1-(4-Fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol

A mixture of 2.84 gm of 1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-4-oxiranylmethyl-piperazine; 2.6 ml of benzylamine and 25 ml ethanol is stirred at 80°C for 6 hours. This mixture is added to 25 ml ice-cold aqueous NaOH solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ extract is collected, washed with 20 ml water and desiccated with Na₂SO₄. The crude product (4.18 gm of an oil) obtained after removal of solvents can be purified using flash chromatography: Solid phase: (SiO₂; 40µm; Baker); eluent: 5% CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂. This material (3.23 gm) is debenzylated by stirring a methanolic solution (100 ml) of above material in the presence of ammonium formate (3.9 gm) and palladium on carbon (3.2 gm) for 12 hours. The corresponding primary amine is isolated by removing insoluble materials by filtration (celite) and concentrating the filtrate. Obtained is an oil that solidifies upon standing. A sample of this crude intermediate product (1.17 gm) is dissolved in 50 ml toluene and heated in the presence of 2,4-difluoro-nitrobenzene (0.5 gm) and potassium carbonate (0.7 gm) for 18 hours. The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is partitioned between ethyl acetate (30 ml) and water (10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water and brine (each 2 X 5 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the residue purified by flash chromatography on SiO₂ eluent ethyl acetate providing the intermediate 1-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol.

25 B. 1-(5-Fluoro-2-methyl-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol

To a heated solution of 1-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol (0.73 gm) in acetic acid (20 ml) containing acetic acid anhydride (0.4 ml) are added small portion of zinc dust (1.26 gm) over a period of 3 hours. Thereafter, the mixture is brought to ambient temperature, insoluble materials are removed by filtration (Celite®) and the filtrate is concentrated. This concentrate is partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 ml) and aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (30 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water and brine (each 2 X 10 ml) and dried

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over magnesium sulfate. Products are isolated by flash column chromatography, stationary phase: SiO₂ (40 μm, Baker); eluent: hexane followed by 50% ethyl acetate in hexane. Obtained are two products: (1) 1-(5-fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol and (2) acetic acid 2-(5-fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-1-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-ethyl ester. M.p. 108-110°C.

EXAMPLE 21

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methoxy-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole

10 A mixture of 1-(5-fluoro-2-methyl-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol (0.063 gm) sodium hydride (0.015 gm) in 10 ml tetrahydrofuran is stirred for 20 minutes under nitrogen where upon methyl iodide (0.18 ml) is added. After 12 hours, solvents are removed and the residue partitioned in ethyl acetate (20 ml) water (10 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with brine (2 X 2 ml),
15 tried over sodium sulfate. After removal of solvents products are isolated by flash column chromatography solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient 2% ethanol in methylene chloride followed by 5% of ethanol in methylene chloride obtained is 5-fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methoxy-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole as an oil. This compound can be transformed into its maleate salt by treating its etheric solution
20 with maleic acid and collecting the precipitate. M.p. 70-77°C.

EXAMPLE 22

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzoimidazole

A. 3-(4-Fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methyl-propan-1-ol
25 3-Amino-2-methyl-propan-1-ol (5.1 gm) dissolved in 30 ml toluene is heated in the presence of 2,4-difluoro-nitrobenzene (3.25 gm) and potassium carbonate (2.1 gm) for 18 hours. The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is partitioned between ethylacetate (300 ml) and water (100 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water and brine (each 2 X 50 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The ethyl
30 acetate layer is concentrated and products isolated by flash chromatography, solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient 10% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 20% ethyl acetate in hexane, providing 3-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methyl-propan-1-ol (5.62 gm).
C₁₀H₁₃FN₂O₃ - Found: C, 52.46; H, 5.88; N, 12.41.

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B. Methanesulfonic acid 3-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methylpropyl ester

To a cold (-25°C), stirred mixture of 3-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methylpropan-1-ol (2.0 gm), triethylamine (1.82 ml) in methylenechloride (50 ml) is dropwise added a solution of methanesulfonic acid anhydride (1.6 gm) in 50 ml CH₂Cl₂. After complete addition, the mixture is warmed to ambient temperature, extracted with water (2 X 20 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to a thick brown oil crude methanesulfonic acid 3-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methyl-propyl ester (2.74 gm).

C. (4-Fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-amine

A mixture of above crude methanesulfonic acid 3-(4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenylamino)-2-methyl-propyl ester (2.6 gm), triethylamine (2.5 ml) and 4-fluorophenylpiperazine (3.7 gm) is dissolved in 100 ml ethanol and heated under reflux for 12 hours. The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is dissolved in ethyl acetate 400 ml and washed with water (2 X 100 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the products are isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent 25% hexane in ethyl acetate). Obtained is an orange colored solid consisting of (4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-amine. C₂₀H₂₄F₂N₄O₂ - Found: C, 61.37; H, 6.21; N, 14.51.

D. 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole

To a heated, refluxing and stirred mixture of 1.5 gm of (4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-amine, acetic acid (45 ml) and acetic acid anhydride (0.59 ml) are added small portions of Zn dust (2.7 gm) until no further discoloration of the reaction mixture is observed (approx. 4 hours). Thereafter, solids are removed by filtration, insolubles washed with acetic acid and the combined acetic acid layer concentrated to a black oil. This oil residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate (100 ml) and washed with 2 X 20 ml water. The ethyl acetate layer is dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to a dark brown oil. Products are isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with 25% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 75% ethyl acetate in hexane). Obtained are 2.0 gm of a solid, 5-fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-methyl-propyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole. This solid can be transferred into its methanesulfonate salt by treating

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an ethanolic solution of the free base with methanesulfonic acid, concentrating this solution, tritulating the residue with ethyl ether and collecting the solids. M.p. 84-91 °C.

EXAMPLE 23

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-2-methyl-1H-

5 benzimidazole

A. 2-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-ol

A mixture of methanesulfonic acid 2-[(4-fluoro-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyloxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl ester prepared in situ from 9.1 gm of methanesulfonic acid anhydride, 6.92 gm of 2-[(4-fluoro-phenyl)-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethanol and 12.1 ml triethylamine and 50 ml methylenechloride) and 5.22 gm of (R)-(-)-2-amino 1-propanol in 20 ml ethanol is heated under reflux for 5 hours. The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is dissolved in ethyl acetate (100 ml) and washed with water (2 x 20 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: ethyl acetate). Obtained is a solid material 15 (3.3 gm) consisting of 2-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-ol.

B. 3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyronitrile

To a mixture of 2-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-ol (1.7 gm) and 4-methylmorpholine (1.18 ml) in 6 ml chloroform is added 1.86 gm of methanesulfonic acid anhydride in 5 ml chloroform at -15°C. The reaction is brought to ambient 20 temperature after 30 minutes and t-butylammonium cyanide (9.6 gm) is added. After 12 hours solvents are removed and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate water. The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water (4 x 20 ml), brine (2 x 10ml) and dried over sodium sulfate. The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the products isolated by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: 30% ethyl acetate in hexane). 25 Obtained is an oily material (1.2 gm) consisting of 3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyronitrile.

C. (4-Fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-amine

3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butylamine. A mixture of 3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyronitrile (0.84 gm), 0.811 gm of cobalt chloride (CoCl₂, 0.811 gm) and sodium borohydride (1.29 gm, added slowly over a period of 2 hours) in 35 ml methanol is stirred for 12 hours. Insoluble materials are removed by filtration and the filtrate is concentrated and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and

1N sodium hydroxide. The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water (4 x 20 ml), brine (2 x 10 ml) and dried over sodium sulfate. The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and the crude product consisting of 3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butylamine (0.65 gm) is used as is.

- 5 3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butylamine (0.65 gm) dissolved in 30 ml toluene is heated in the presence of 2,4-difluoro-nitrobenzene (0.49 gm) and potassium carbonate (0.43 gm) for 18 hours. The residue, obtained after removal of solvents, is partitioned between ethyl acetate (100 ml) and water (50 ml). The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water and brine (each 2 x 25 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The ethyl acetate layer is concentrated and products isolated by flash chromatography, (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient 10% ethyl acetate in hexane followed by 20% ethyl acetate in hexane), providing (4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-amine as an orange red colored solid.

- 15 D. 5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole

- 20 To a refluxing, stirred mixture of (4-fluoro-2-nitro-phenyl)-{3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-amine (0.38 gm), 10 ml acetic acid are added small portions of Zn dust (excess) until a nearly colorless reaction mixture is obtained approx. 4 hours. Insolubles are removed by filtration, washed with acetic acid and the combined acetic acid layer concentrated to a black oil. This oily residue is dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 ml) and washed with 2 x 10 ml water and brine. The organic layer is collected, the solvent removed and the residue purified by flash chromatography (solid phase: SiO₂; eluent: gradient starting with ethyl acetate followed by ethyl acetate/methanol 8:2). Obtained are 0.1 gm of 5-fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-2-methyl-25 1H-benzimidazole. (M+/Z 384.47).

EXAMPLE 24

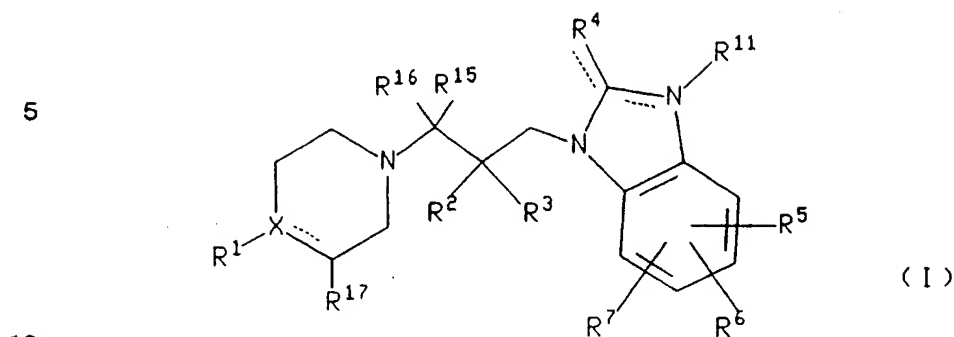
5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-butyl}-1,3-dihydro-benzimidazole-2-one

- 30 The title compound was prepared using the procedure depicted in scheme 5.
M+/z 386. M.p. 188-193°C.

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CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula



wherein each of the dotted lines represents an optional double bond;

X is carbon or nitrogen;

R¹ is benzyl, aryl selected from phenyl, indanyl and naphthyl, or heteroaryl selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl, wherein each of the foregoing aryl, heteroaryl and (C₁-C₄)alkyl groups, and the phenyl moiety of the benzyl group, may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, preferably with from zero to two substituents, independently selected from halo (e.g., chloro, fluoro, bromo or iodo), (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, cyano, -C(=O)R⁹, aryl and heteroaryl, wherein said aryl is selected from phenyl, indanyl and naphthyl and said heteroaryl is selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl;

R² and R³ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, cyano, -CONH₂ and -NHC(=O)R⁹, or R² and R³ together form an oxo group;

R⁴ is hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, amino, -NHR¹⁰, -SR¹⁰, OR¹⁰ or hydroxy;

R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo (e.g., chloro, fluoro, bromo or iodo), cyano, (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl, (C₁-C₆)acylamino, (phenyl)[(C₁-C₆)acyl]amino, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, aryl and heteroaryl, wherein said aryl is selected

from phenyl, naphthyl and indanyl, and said heteroaryl is selected from pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, quinolyl and imidazolyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen and (C₁-C₆)alkyl; and

R¹¹ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl or benzyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of said benzyl
 5 may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents, preferably with from zero to two substituents, independently selected from halo (e.g., fluoro, chloro, bromo, or iodo), (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with from one to three fluorine atoms, amino, cyano, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino and di-(C₁-C₆)alkylamino;

10 each of R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ is selected, independently, from hydrogen, methyl, cyano, -(C=O)-NH₂ and -CH₂-O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R¹⁷ is hydrogen or, when X is nitrogen, R¹⁷ may optionally form, together with the carbon to which it is attached, R¹ and X, a tetrahydroquinoline ring;

with the proviso that: (a) R⁴ can not be either oxygen or hydroxy when all of
 15 R², R³, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are hydrogen; (b) when the five membered ring of formula I contains a double bond, R¹¹ is absent; (c) when R⁴ is sulfur or oxygen, R⁴ is double bonded to the carbon to which is attached and such carbon is single bonded to both adjacent ring nitrogen atoms; and (d) when X is nitrogen and is double bonded to an adjacent carbon, R¹ is absent;

20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is nitrogen.
3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is carbon.
4. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R¹ is absent.
5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R² and R³ are both hydrogen.
- 25 6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-Fluoro-1-{3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]butyl}-1,3-dihydro-benzoimidazol-2-one;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
 30 1-(5-Chloro-benzoimidazol-1-yl)-3-[4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;
 1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole;

1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-1H-benzoimidazole;

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1-{3-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-benzoimidazol-2-one;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-o-tolyl-piperazine-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-m-tolyl-piperazine-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

5 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-p-tolyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-{4-chloro-phenyl}-phenyl-methyl-piperazin-1-yl}-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(4-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

10 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-naphthalen-1-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

15 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-[4-(2-ethoxy-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-2-ol;

1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-{4-[3-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-propan-2-ol; and

20 1-Benzoimidazol-1-yl-3-{4-[2-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-propan-2-ol;

7. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies

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and inflammation in a mammal, comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in treating or preventing such condition, and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

8. A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep
5 disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease,
10 depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension
15 and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in treating or preventing such condition.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis,
20 affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents,
25 neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies
30 and inflammation in a mammal, comprising a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis,

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nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and inflammation in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method of treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a dopaminergic effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies

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and inflammation in a mammal, comprising a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from sleep disorders, sexual disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosis, affective psychosis, 5 nonorganic psychosis, personality disorders, psychiatric mood disorders, conduct and impulse disorders, schizophrenic and schizoaffective disorders, polydipsia, bipolar disorders, dysphoric mania, anxiety and related disorders, obesity, emesis, bacterial infections of the CNS, learning disorders, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, depression, extrapyramidal side effects from neuroleptic agents, neuroleptic malignant 10 syndrome, hypothalamic pituitary disorders, ocular disorders, congestive heart failure, chemical dependencies, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Gilles De La Tourette's syndrome and other hyperkinesias, dementia, ischemia, Parkinson's disease, akathisia and other movement disorders, hypertension and diseases caused by a hyperactive immune system such as allergies and 15 inflammation in a mammal, comprising an administering to said mammal a D4 receptor binding effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

15. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising a D4 receptor binding 20 effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. A method of treating or preventing a disease or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by altering dopamine mediated neurotransmission in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a D4 25 receptor binding effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/IB 95/00378

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C07D235/06 C07D235/26 C07D403/12 A61K31/445 A61K31/495

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE,A,20 17 265 (A. H. ROBINS) 15 October 1970 cited in the application see claim 1 ---	1
X	EP,A,0 197 840 (INSERM, UNIVERSITE DE CAEN AND SOCIETE CIVILE BIOPROJET) 15 October 1986 see page 18 - page 22; claims 1,12; example 39; table I ---	1,7
X	EP,A,0 526 434 (BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM) 3 February 1993 cited in the application see claims 1,16,17 --- -/--	1,7

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- * "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- * "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- * "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- * "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- * "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

* "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

* "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

* "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 July 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

25. 07. 95

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Authorized officer

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/IB 95/00378

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>ARZNEIMITTEL-FORSCHUNG, vol.35, no.1A, 1985, DE pages 272 - 276 K. FRETER ET AL '4-(indolyl-3)-1-(benzimidazolonylalkyl)-piperidines, a novel group of potential antiallergy compounds' see page 273; examples 9,10 ---</p>	1
A	<p>CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 91, no. 19, 5 November 1979, Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 157658x, J. SAWLEWICZ ET AL 'Benzimidazole derivatives. IX. Synthesis of aminoalcohols and thioethers derived from 1-(2-hydroxy-3-chloropropyl)-2-alkylbenzimidazoles' page 633 ; see abstract & ACTA POL. PHARM., vol.36, no.1, 1979 pages 17 - 23 -----</p>	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National application No.

PCT/IB 95/00378

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claims 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are directed to a method of treatment of
(diagnostic method practised on) the human/animal body, the search has been
carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such
an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
The first compound in claim 6 has been searched as part of a claim that
depends on claim 1, i.e. 5-fluoro-1-(3-(4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl)
propyl)-1,3 dihydrobenzimidazol-2-one.
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all
searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment
of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report
covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/IB 95/00378

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		BE-A- 748392	16-09-70
		CA-A- 974995	23-09-75
		CH-A- 549038	15-05-74
		CH-A- 556336	29-11-74
		DE-A- 2017255	08-10-70
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		FR-A- 2042322	12-02-71
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		GB-A- 1299621	13-12-72
		NL-A- 7005191	13-10-70
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		JP-A- 61267574	27-11-86
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		CA-A- 2114542	18-02-93
		CZ-A- 9400170	18-05-94
		WO-A- 9303016	18-02-93
		JP-T- 6509575	27-10-94
		NO-A- 940306	14-03-94
		NZ-A- 243777	27-04-95
		PL-A- 302163	11-07-94

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